

# **Utilizing Flexibility of the Title IV-E Waiver to Engage Communities and Enhance Outcomes**

**Los Angeles County  
Blue Ribbon Commission  
on Child Protection**

**Los Angeles, CA**

*March 10, 2014*

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# **We will cover:**

- *Historical context in Florida*
- *Step 1 – Community Based Care*
- *Step 2 – Add the Waiver*
- *Result?*
  - *Success by numbers – statewide*
  - *A local example*
  - *Characteristics of community engagement in Florida*
- *Relevance to LA County?*

# **Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services – “HRS”**

- *In 1990's, urban legend was that HRS was largest single state agency in the country and had all of the issues inherent in large bureaucracies*
- *Governor Chiles vows to “blow-up” HRS*
  - *In 1992, Agency for Healthcare Administration created and responsibilities moved from HRS*
  - *In 1996, HRS split into Department of Children and Family Services and Department of Health*
  - *Several further splits – Department of Elder Affairs, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Juvenile Justice*

# **Community Based Care**

- *1996 legislation authorizes 5 pilot sites to “privatize” child welfare services – referred to as Community Based Care (CBC)*
- *Goal of CBC was NOT to save money (though there remains disagreement on this point) – it was to push decision making (and ownership) down to the local level and to truly reform child welfare*
- *Governor Bush (elected in 1998) was ardent supporter of CBC and ensured statewide transition during his 2 terms – completed in 2005*

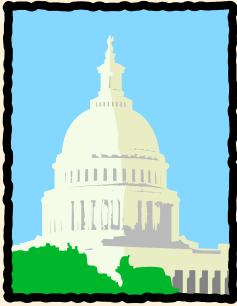
# Florida economy

- *In early 1990's Florida's state revenues significantly reduced by recession (no state income tax) – Florida heavily dependent on federal funding, even more so after budget reductions to state funds*
- *Then in late 1990's and early 2000's as economy recovered, there were significant investments in child welfare via increased funding for CBC's under Governor Bush*
- *However, CBC's remained significantly hampered by lack of funding flexibility – strings were inconsistent with spirit of CBC*

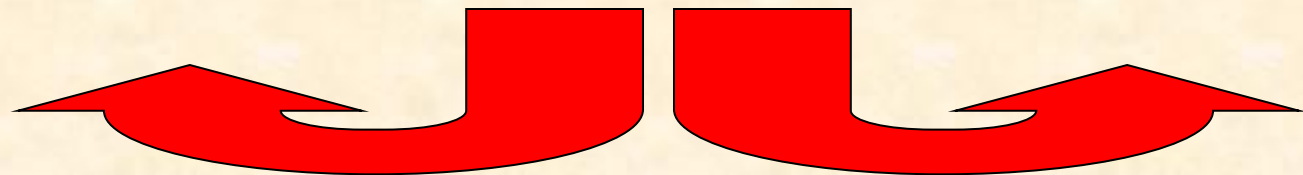
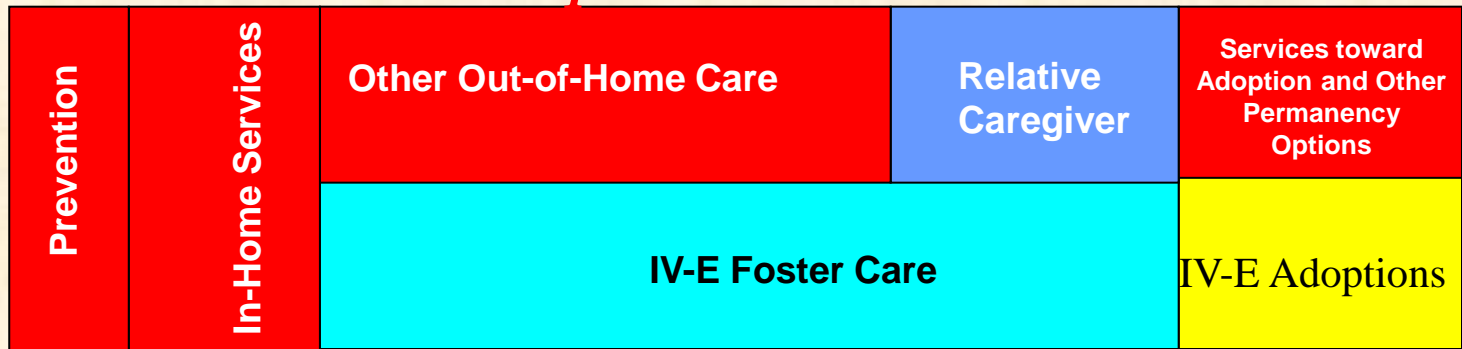
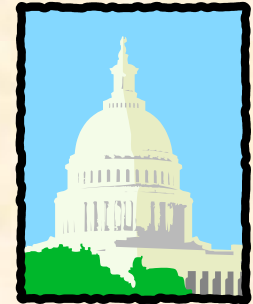
## **And then.... The Waiver!**

- *Implemented in 2006 - “Turbo-charged” CBC success*
- *Sustained prior funding increases due to “savings” requirement – created stable base*
- *Removed focus from how to earn federal dollars to how to best meet the needs of children and families at a local level (“money follows child”)*
- *One other interesting development - Provider agency BoD’s replaced by community BoD’s*

# A Continuum of Services & Funds Pre-Waiver



*From:*  
*Money Follows the Federal*  
*Requirements*



Reunification

Permanency



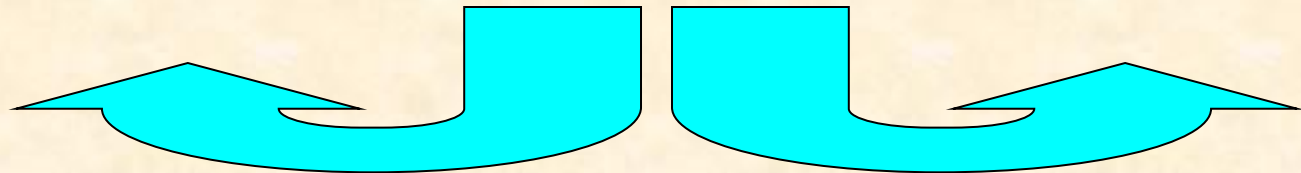
# A Continuum of Services & Funds Waiver



*To:*  
*Money Follows the Child*



Prevention	In-Home Services	Other Out-of-Home Care	Relative Caregiver	Services toward Adoption and Other Permanency Options
		IV-E Foster Care		IV-E Adoptions



Reunification

Permanency



# Title IV-E Waiver

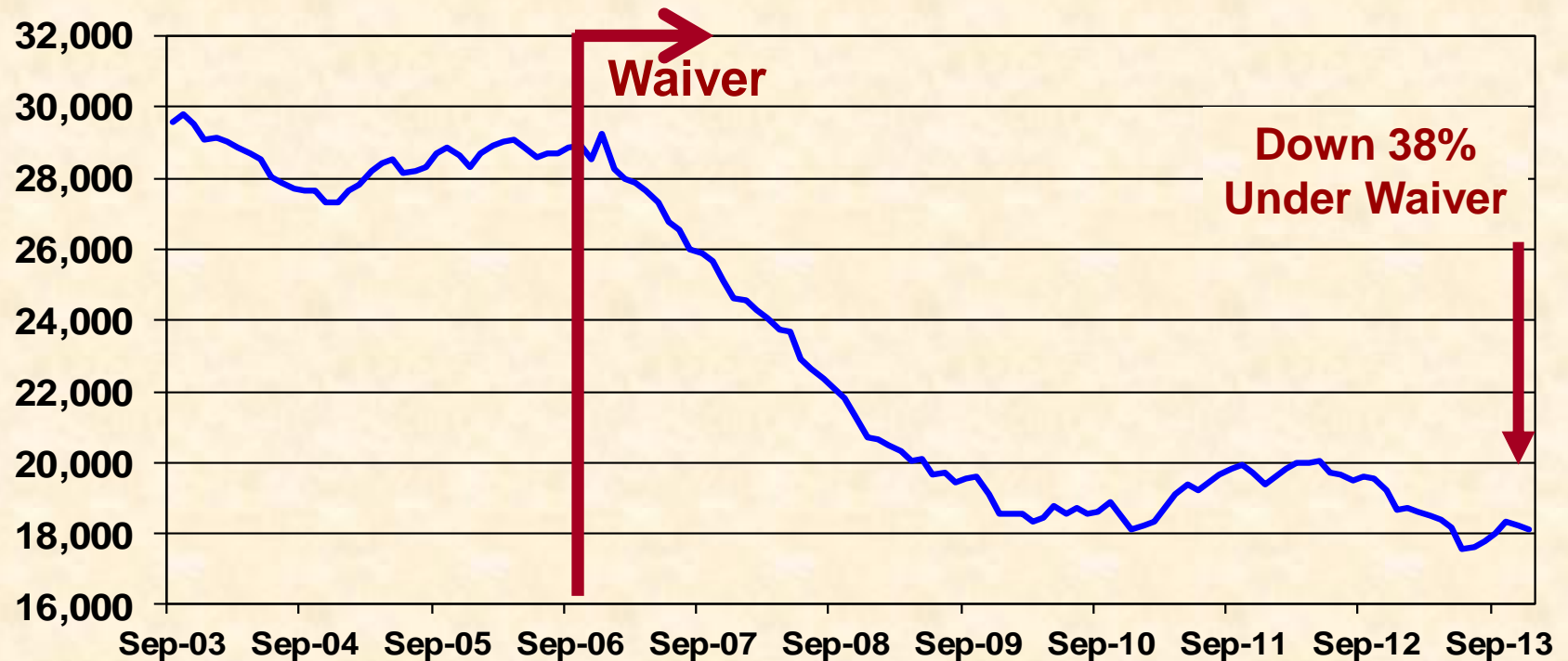
## The Waiver in brief

- The waiver allows federal foster care funds to be used for a **wide variety of child welfare purposes** rather than being restricted to out-of-home care, as is normally the case under title IV-E of the Social Security Act.
- This permits funds to be used for child welfare services including **prevention, diversion from out-of-home placement** through intensive in-home services, **reunification**, when this can be accomplished safely, and to speed **permanency** as well as for foster care.
- The State receives a **defined amount of federal funds** for foster care over a five year period.
- **Adoption assistance** funds continue to be received on a **federal/state matching** basis.
- **Savings** in federal, state or local funds must be used to **further provision of child welfare services**.
- An **independent evaluator** will assess the effectiveness of the demonstration based on program outcomes..

# THE NUMBERS

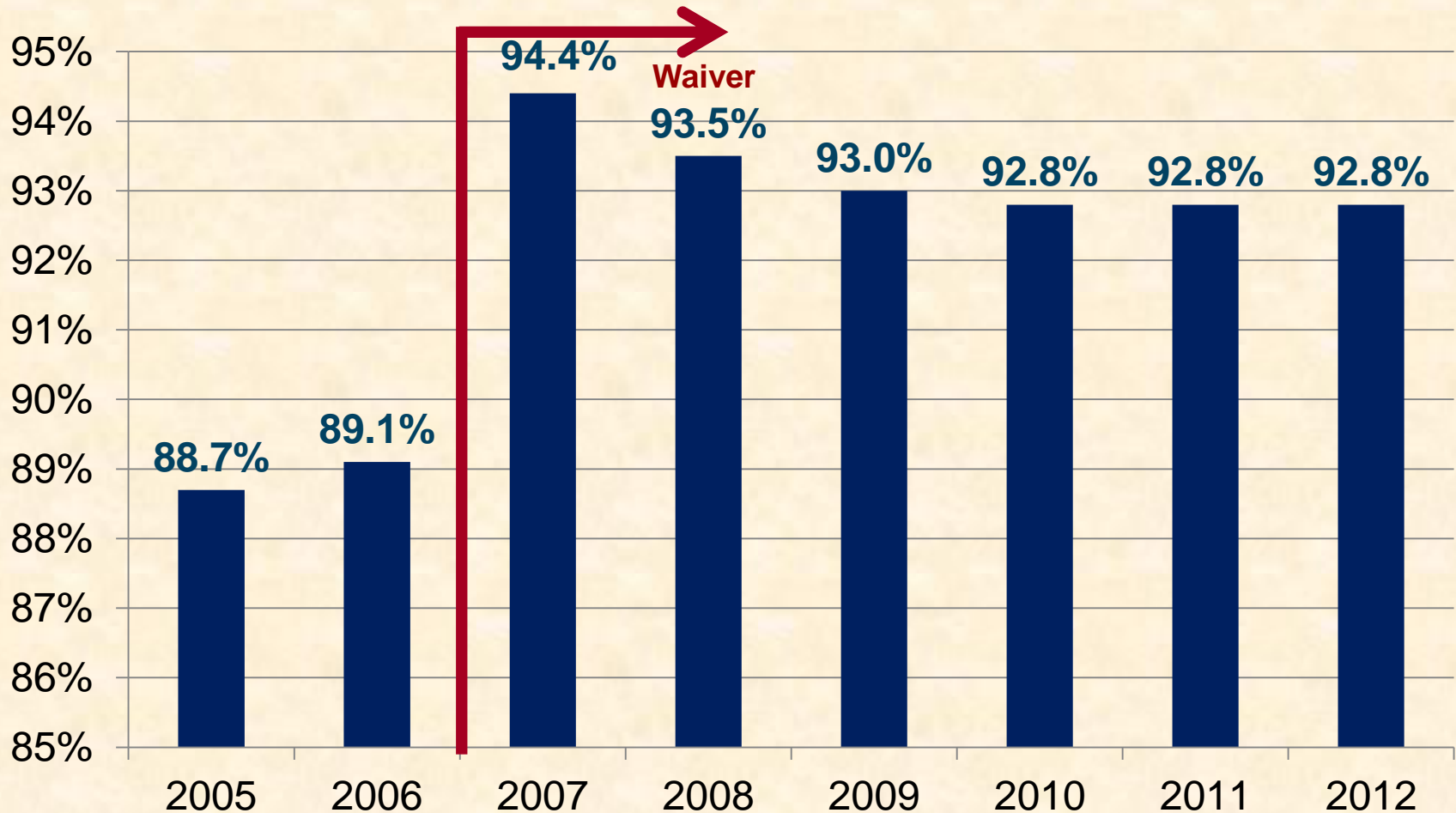
# Children in Out-of-Home Care

September 30, 2003 to December 31, 2013



# Child Safety Indicator

## Absence of Recurrence of Abuse



# The Bottom Line

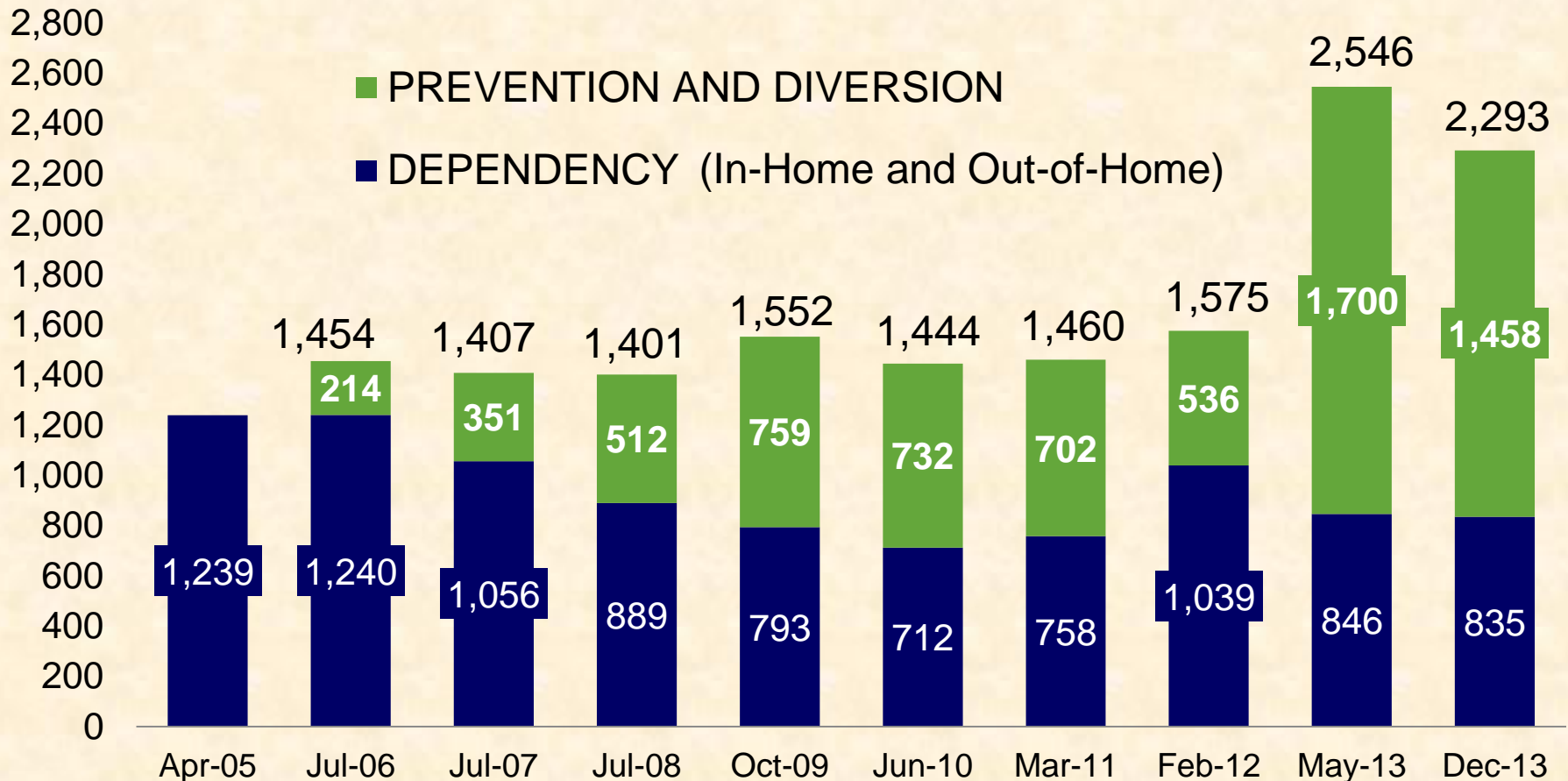
## Significant Ratio Change

Ratio of out-of-home care expenditures to prevention/  
diversion/ family preservation/ In-home expenditures by federal  
fiscal year



Source: *IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation: Final Evaluation Report*  
Florida Mental Health Institute, Univ. of South Florida March 2012.

# Reduction in Dependency and Increase in Prevention and Diversion – Brevard Family Partnership



# **Community Engagement in Florida**

- *Local BoD's, stakeholders and CBC leadership establish local priorities for CBC Systems of Care*
- *Local working relationships had to be established*
  - *Law enforcement*
  - *School boards*
  - *Local branches of statewide agencies*
    - *Agency for Persons with Disabilities*
    - *Juvenile Justice*
    - *Court system*
  - *Children's legal services*
  - *Protective Investigators (some done by state agency, some by local sheriff office)*
  - *Local provider agencies*
    - *Substance Abuse and Mental health*
    - *Medicaid doctors*



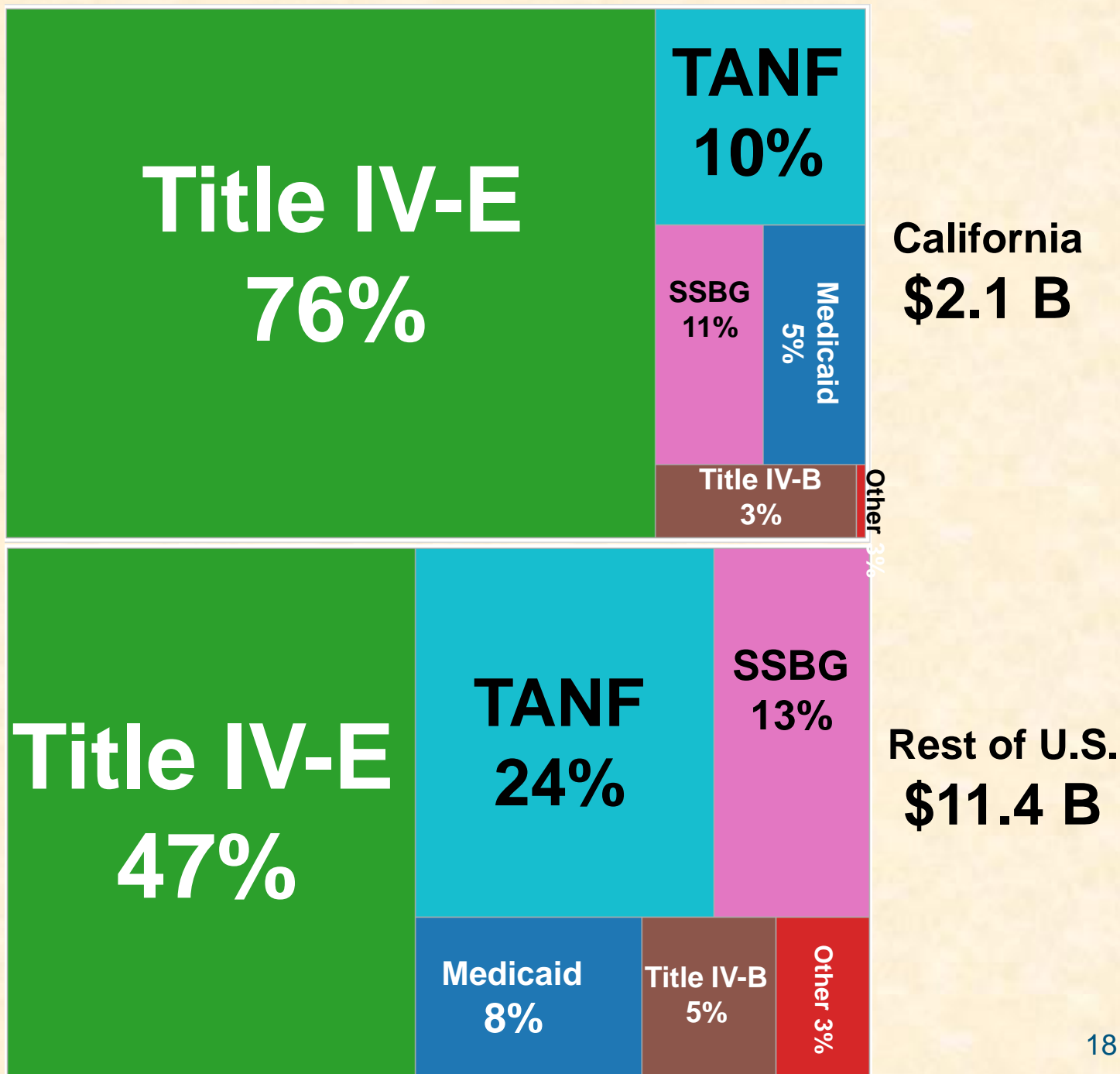
# **What Impacts Local Strategy?**

- *Difference in funding levels*
- *Urban vs rural*
- *Availability of services (public and private), e.g.  
Healthy Families / Healthy Start  
Available providers*
- *Other supports for children and families (e.g.  
Children's Services Councils are taxing authorities)*
- *Size*
- *Other demographics such as poverty level, 0-17  
population*

# LA COUNTY

# Federal Child Welfare Spending for SFY 2010

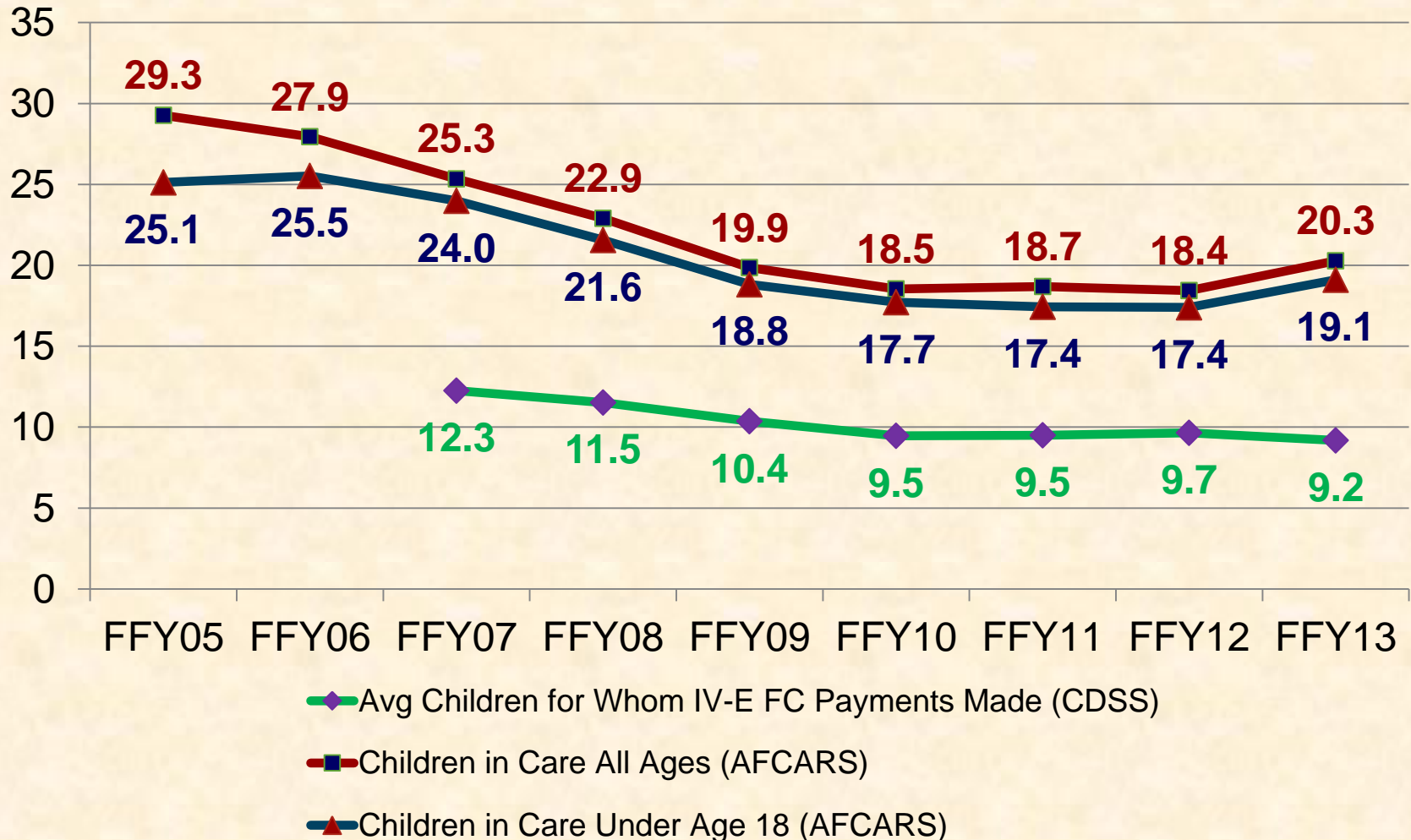
Source:  
Child Trends  
2012 report  
of SFY 2010  
Spending



# Caseload Trends

## LA County Children in Care

Thousands



# Closing Thoughts

- *Similarities to Florida*
  - *Size*
  - *Multiple reform efforts due to tragedies*
  - *Public perception*
  - *Funding flexibility (possibly more than Florida)*
- *Differences*
  - *More limited agency scope*
  - *County vs. state*
  - *Governance*
- *Themes*
  - *Need for cross agency collaboration*
  - *Opportunity to utilize funding flexibility to support recommendations*
- *Thoughts*
  - *What is lowest possible level of local decision making / ownership?*
  - *Role of Hub system – is it the intersection of maximum agency / community collaboration?*